works giving priorities. The Railways then examine the cases and include such of them in the Works Programme for which the various prerequisite formalities have been completed by the State Governments. The Railways while including the works in the Works Programme also take into account the quantum of existing sanctioned works for that particular State and the pace at which these works are being executed by the State Government.

Grievances of employees of Darjeeling Himalayan Railway

2442. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the long standing grievances of the employees working in Darjeeling Himalayan Railway;

(b) whether Government have taken measures to solve their problems: and

(c) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) A proposal was received from N.F. Railway for grant of Running Allowance at Fireman Gr. 'B' rates to the Brakesmen operating the brakes in Coaches/Wagons on Darjeeling Himalayan Section. Keeping in view the peculiar working conditions of these brakesmen, Board, as a special case, have agreed to this proposal.

Supersession of senior Loco Inspectors

2443. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from some Senior Loco Inspectors, Central Railway, who retired on 31st October, 1994 with last posting at New Delhi, regarding their supersession while in service, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for which they were superseded;

(c) whether they have been given their pension and other retirement dues; if not, reasons therefor; and

(d) by when they will be given their dues and their seniority fixed at proper place?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Goods transportation capacity of Railways

2444. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total goods transportation capacity of the railways;

(b) whether this capacity falls short of the requirement; and

(c) if so, by how much and the steps being taken to augment the goods transportation capacity of the railways to the desired extent?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The goods transportation capacity of the Railways has been developed to deal with a transport output of 273.73 btkm.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Gauge conversion of Railway lines in Gujarat

2445. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that conversion of Rajkot-Veraval Metre-gauge Railway line into Broad-gauge forms part of the overall gauge conversion plan; if so, what place does it occupy in the plan;

(b) whether Government of Gujarat has demanded its conversion to be undertaken and completed within the Eighth Five Year Plan period; if so, what is the Government's response thereto; and

(c) what are the other gauge conversion works proposed by Government of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The work has been included in the Budget, 1994-95 at an estimated cost of Rs. 100 crores with an outlay of Rs. 3 crores during the current year. However, with a view to finding out the most economical alignment which will also be most useful for serving the Ports and the industry, Railway is studying various alternative alignments. The work will be taken up as soon as the alignment is finalised and necessary sanctions have been obtained.

(c) Government of Gujarat have requested inter-alia for conversion of Ahmedabad—Delhi, Bhavnagar—Surendranagar, Navlakhi — Dahinsara — Morbi — Wankaner, Dahinsara — Maliya Miyana, Surendranagar — Rajula and its extension upto Pipavav, Gandhidham — Bhuj — Naliya, Ahmedabad — Viiapur, Ahmedabad — Himmatnagar, Miyagam — Dabhoi, Chhotaudepur — Pratapnagar, Mahesana — Viramgam, Nadiad — Kapadvanj and extension upto Modasa and Wind Mill to Bedi Port area.